



Press Release

Attorney General Frosh Files Lawsuit to Protect Marylanders from the Trump Administration’s Sabotage of the Affordable Care Act

BALTIMORE, MD (September 13, 2018) – Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh today filed a [lawsuit](#) in the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland against the Trump Administration, seeking a declaratory judgment that the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is constitutional and the federal government must stop taking actions to dismantle it. Elimination of the ACA would imperil the health of millions of Marylanders, wreak havoc on our state budget, and destabilize Maryland’s health insurance markets and health care system.

Attorney General Frosh’s lawsuit follows the Trump Administration’s refusal to defend the ACA in a Texas case that seeks to dismantle the law. Filed in February 2018, the lawsuit alleges that the ACA is no longer constitutional due to the passage of a tax bill that eliminated the shared responsibility payment required under the ACA’s individual coverage requirement. By seeking to overturn the law, the suit would throw millions off health insurance rolls by reversing Medicaid expansion; end tax credits that help people afford coverage in the health insurance marketplaces created under the law; allow insurance companies to deny coverage of pre-existing conditions; take away seniors’ prescription drug discounts; and strip funding from the nation’s public health system, including its work combatting the opioid epidemic. The ACA has already survived review by the United States Supreme Court twice and over 70 unsuccessful repeal attempts in Congress.

“We cannot allow President Trump and Attorney General Sessions to destroy the ACA,” said Attorney General Frosh. “Their attempts to sabotage this life-saving law and jeopardize the health of Marylanders who rely on it cannot stand. We are taking action to protect and ensure health care coverage for every Marylander and all Americans.”

Health insurance reforms under the ACA have resulted in millions of people accessing coverage for the first time in their lives. Over 11.8 million low-income individuals have gained coverage through Medicaid expansion, and 10.3 million people obtain health insurance through ACA marketplaces. In Maryland, more than 300,000 people have obtained Medicaid coverage through the expansion. During the 2018 open enrollment, more than 150,000 Marylanders enrolled in private health care coverage through Maryland Health Connection, the state-based health insurance marketplace operated by the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange. In January 2018, 121,400 Marylanders - 79% of enrollees - received a total of \$63.9 million in federal tax credits to help them purchase insurance.

The Affordable Care Act's increase in health insurance coverage rates has also reduced uncompensated care costs. In 2015 alone, hospitals' uncompensated care costs decreased by \$10.4 billion nationwide. In Maryland, the uninsured rate for individuals between the ages of 18 and 64 fell by more than 64 percent between 2013 and 2016. From fiscal year 2013 to 2015, the State's hospital uncompensated care costs declined by approximately \$311.0 million.